

Appl. No. 09/608,560
Amdt. Dated 9/7/2004
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 6, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 12, 29, 46 and 63 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are considered to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 14, 17, 18-20, 22, 23, 26-28, 30, 31, 34, 35-37, 39, 40, 43-45, 47, 48, 51-54, 56, 57, 60-62, 64, 65, and 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and claims 4, 7-8, 15-16, 21, 24-25, 32-33, 38, 41-42, 49-50, 55, 58-59 and 66-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Moreover, claim 68 was objected to based on a typographical error.

Applicant has placed claims 12, 29 and 63 into independent form to include some of the limitations associated with the base and intervening claims. The limitations of claims 36 and 46 have been added to independent claim 35 and claims 1-2, 14-19, 30-34, 36, 48-53, and 65-68 have been cancelled without prejudice. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 and subsequent allowance of independent claims 12, 29, 35 and 63 as well as all claims dependent therefrom.

Conclusion

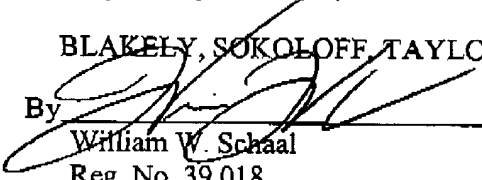
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 9/7/2004

By


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Susan McFarlane

9/7/2004

Date